

Outstanding Service Award
Personal Statement

May 1, 2018

Louisiana Tech University
Senate Members and
University Faculty and Staff

To all,

Firstly, thank you all so much for this nomination. I am humbled and honored beyond words to be recognized simply for doing what I consider my job. The culture of commitment here at Tech starts at the top in my observation and, while I'm not always successful, I strive to meet the standards set by Dr. Guice, our deans, department heads and research directors in helping our faculty and students to successfully reach their goals. Above all, I have taken notice, and am encouraged and strengthened by, Dr. Guice's compassion and support for everyone at Tech; from helping to pay parking stickers to providing delicious complimentary meals and other small, less public demonstrations of his appreciation. So, I try to emulate his example in hopes that in some small way, I can help further that ripple effect of compassion, gratitude, efficiency and understanding (a daily effort for me at times ☺) in helping our faculty, students, and fellow staff members to successfully meet the goals and demands set before us. It's not always easy but the personal reward of seeing an inexperienced researcher, unsure and faltering at first, transform into a confident, successful one once that tiny spark of confidence is stoked, is indescribable. We are all Louisiana Tech and it truly takes every one of us working together to achieve those goals and successes. I'm proud and humbled and honored to be a small part of that 'Tech Movement'. And, I pray that it carries our present and future students and faculty to their highest pinnacles of achievement, continuing that ripple effect of success far beyond this great institution of learning, itself. I know that it will happen under our current leaders. Again, thank you!

Sincerely,



Beth Free
Pre-Award Coordinator
Office of Sponsored Projects



LOUISIANA TECH
UNIVERSITY®

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH INFORMATICS
& INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

CHEN LIANG, PHD
1310 WEST RAILROAD AVE. WYLY 1125 | RUSTON, LA 71272
EMAIL: CLIANG@LATECH.EDU TEL: 318-257-2839

April 24, 2018

RE: Recommendation for Beth Free as the Recipient of Outstanding Service Award, 2018

Dear Committee Members,

It is my pleasure to write this letter and recommend Mrs. Beth Free for the Outstanding Service Award. Mrs. Free is a Pre-award coordinator at the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP), Louisiana Tech University. I knew Mrs. Free as an assistant professor of health informatics who works closely with her on multiple grant applications.

Mrs. Free has been serving at Louisiana Tech for 15 years. She has been professional, progressive, and enthusiastic in her administrative role. In the OSP, she took the initiative in correcting and uploading faculty routing documents. Today, the electronic routing form is becoming a favorable in-house tool during the grant application. In my experiences working with Mrs. Free, I am really impressed by her professional knowledge, willingness to solve any unexpected problems, and prompt response to colleagues' requests. Mrs. Free has provided many advise and useful tips during the first time I applied for external grants at Louisiana Tech.

Mrs. Free is a pleasant person to work with. She is patient when talking with colleagues who may be from diverse backgrounds and cultures. When I was participating in a grant-seeking workshop sponsored by OSP, she was able to interpret any terminologies that may be unfamiliar to new research faculty. I believe it is fulfilling to her to help faculty successfully reach their goals. In the workshop, she shared many encouraging stores about junior faculty who eventually received external grants after endeavors and failures.

I believe that Mrs. Free is an outstanding candidate for the Award. This Award will largely encourage her on her way to contributing to the University research activities. I make my recommendation without any reservation. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any help.

Sincerely,

Chen Liang, PhD
Assistant Professor

A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM

P.O. BOX 3171 • RUSTON, LA 71272 • TEL: (318) 257-2854 • FAX: (318) 257-4896

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY UNIVERSITY



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

April 24, 2018

Dear Outstanding Service Award Committee:

This letter is intended to serve as a reference for Beth Free for her potential selection for the Outstanding Service Award. I met Beth when I came to Louisiana Tech University as a Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in the winter of 2015. Often Beth and I discussed many areas of funding assistance. During her many sessions in regard to training incoming new faculty on funding avenue and logistics. I noted that she exhibits exemplary performance, professionalism, and dedicated work ethics. As a young faculty, sometimes I faced proposal questions regarding budget and logistics. Beth is often very patience, provide sound input, suggestions, and walk-thru procedures. I was impressed by her willingness to outreach me, not once nor twice but multiple times.

Beth's desire to work and fostering positive friendly environmental is commendable. With her passion for mentoring young faculty like me, if Beth get selected, I think she will be a positive force representing Office of Sponsored Projects, administrative unit, and the university on and off campus. She has my highest recommendation to receive the Outstanding Service Award.

Best Regards,

Scott Poh, Ph.D
Assistant Professor - Chemistry Program
Louisiana Tech University
spoh@latech.edu



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & SCIENCE

To: Louisiana Tech University Senate

May 1, 2018

From: Leland Weiss, PhD

Louisiana Tech University, College of Engineering and Science

lweiss@latech.edu

318-257-5113

Subject: University Senate Service Award, Ms. Beth Free

Dear University Senate Members,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support and recommendation for Ms. Beth Free whom I nominated to receive the University Senate Service Award. I have worked with Beth for many years and have seen her skillfully and honorably transition across personnel changes, University structure changes, and research needs and requirements changes. Across these many years and multiple changes, she has continued to supply the kind of helpful, dedicated support that characterizes the best qualities of Tech employees.

Her position requires planning and organization, and she has taken on additional roles and handled them well as the years have progressed. She is helpful and courteous and there have been many occasions where she has gone beyond what is required to help the University be successful. This has included monitoring grant submission dates and getting things submitted for faculty even when off campus on vacation. She is also tireless and quickly (and nicely) adjusts many faculty-submitted budgets that require significant edits (including my own). This type of dedication puts a great face on her office and represents the University well.

Over the years I have found Beth to build an atmosphere of collaboration that exists across the campus and the State. In large, multi-campus research efforts this ensures all elements function smoothly and increases the efficiency and effectiveness of everyone involved.

In an environment where there is seldom enough help, seldom enough staff, and resources are stretched thin, Beth remains very committed and approachable. She is truly one of the valued members of the University and it would be very fitting to honor her with the Service Award.

Sincerely,

Leland Weiss, Ph.D.

Thurman Lauret Professor

Interim Director of Civil and Mechanical Engineering
& Construction Engineering Technology